

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate Room
S-221, The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate Room
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell,

Nine in ten Americans think there is a mental health crisis in this country.¹ Last year, we lost almost 300 Americans a day to overdose,² and in 2020, we lost 126 Americans a day to suicide.³ Young people are particularly impacted – in a recent survey, a third of adults under 30 described their mental health as only fair or poor, and eight in ten parents are concerned that depression, alcohol or drugs, or anxiety are negatively impacting teenagers.¹ Those who need help face challenges in finding it; about half of adults under 30 reported thinking they might need mental health services or medication in the past year but did not get them, primarily due to cost or other challenges in finding and accessing services.¹

As members of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, a coalition of 140 Members of the House of Representatives, we urge you to prioritize H.R.7666, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act, for inclusion in an end-of-year package. This incredibly comprehensive bill passed in the House by 402-20 in June. The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act addresses the full spectrum of behavioral health needs through improvements for substance use disorder prevention and treatment, recovery housing, suicide prevention and crisis care, and community and school-based mental health services. This

¹ <https://www.kff.org/report-section/kff-cnn-mental-health-in-america-survey-findings/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

³ [https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/#:~:text=Suicide%20rates%20by%20age%20range&text=In%202020%2C%20the%20suicide%20rates,older%20\(20.86%20per%20100%2C000\).](https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/#:~:text=Suicide%20rates%20by%20age%20range&text=In%202020%2C%20the%20suicide%20rates,older%20(20.86%20per%20100%2C000).)

bill expands access to care with programs to expand and train the behavioral health workforce, promote treatment parity, and increase peer support. It also includes programs targeted toward underserved and at-risk populations, including children, pregnant and postpartum women, servicemembers, American Indian and Alaska Natives, unhoused people, and those who are incarcerated.

We have reached an inflection point. We cannot continue on our current path, leaving our constituents to struggle with unmet needs for mental health and substance use support. The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act is a sweeping, strongly bipartisan bill that will help turn the tide of the mental health crisis and should be an end of year priority for the Congress. Thank you for your leadership in responding to this issue. We look forward to working with you to transform prevention and treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.

Sincerely,



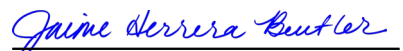
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Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
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Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



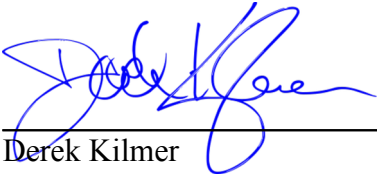
Jaime Herrera Beutler
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Derek Kilmer
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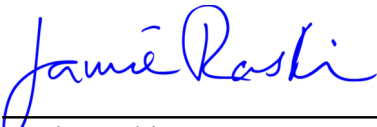
Gwen S. Moore
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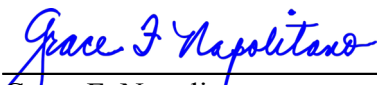
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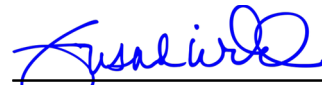
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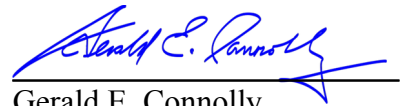
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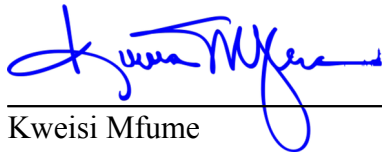
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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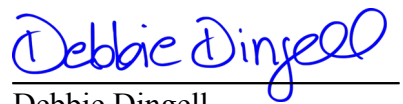
Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
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Gerald E. Connolly
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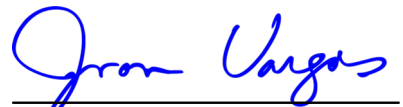
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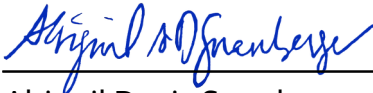
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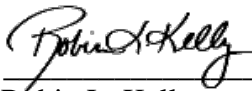
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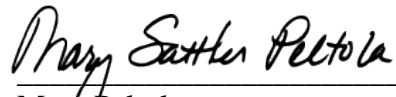
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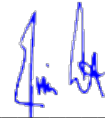
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